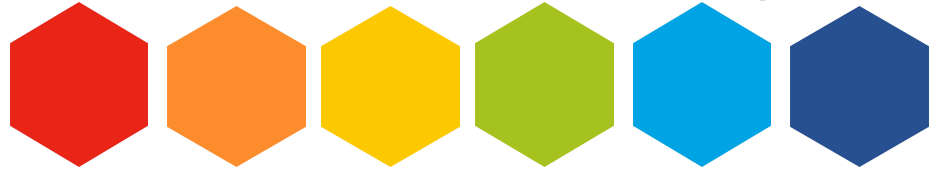


Curriculum News



January 2016



Welcome back to a new term and new year!

New SATS tests for Year 2 and Year 6

From 2016, there are significant changes to the way children are assessed at the end of Y2 and Y6.

KS1 (Y2) and KS2 (Y6) national curriculum test outcomes will no longer be reported using levels. Scaled scores will be used instead where 100 is the performance of the expected national standard. If a child gets a scaled score of 100 or more they will have met the expected standard.

A new set of KS1 national curriculum tests replaces the previous tests and tasks. The new tests consist of:
English reading Paper 1: [combined reading prompt and answer booklet](#)

English reading Paper 2: [reading booklet and reading answer booklet](#)

English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: [spelling](#) Paper 2: [questions](#)

Mathematics Paper 1: [arithmetic](#) and mathematics Paper 2: [reasoning](#)

The KS2 tests now consist of:

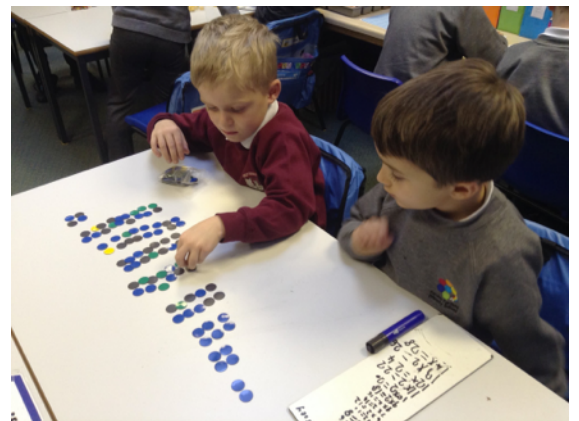
English reading: [reading booklet and associated answer booklet](#)

English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: [short answer questions](#) Paper 2: [spelling](#)

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

Mathematics Paper 1: [arithmetic](#)

Mathematics Paper 2: [reasoning](#) and Paper 3: [reasoning](#)



SATs are important, but there is more to life... I was delighted to see Y6 doing a woodwork and design project just before Christmas.

This page is best viewed electronically. The links will take you to sample papers - please don't share them with children as we will use them in school! They are provided to give you an idea of the expectations. A key change is that the old KS2 mental arithmetic paper has been replaced by a booklet of conventional [written calculations](#). The Y2 children will also get a similar [calculation](#) test. There is no formal writing test: [KS1](#) and [KS2](#) teachers will make assessments across a range of writing against new performance descriptors.

Information meetings on this will be held soon for parents in Y2 and Y6.



Staffing News

Congratulations to Miss Stewart (and Vin) who got married over the Christmas holidays. Miss Stewart is now to be known as **Mrs Kumar**.

Mrs Fisher left at Christmas and her class is now being taken by Mrs Loveridge and Ms Howells. The class is now to be known as 2L. Mrs Wilson will be sharing 4KL with Mrs Kroon and the class will now be 4KW. Miss Rutledge will be returning to Farfield to teach some Year 1 lessons on Wednesdays this term.

What was that terrible smell?

The infant building has been flooded twice in the past month and this has caused some very unpleasant smells from wet carpet in the foyer and Children Centre area. We have worked hard to address this but please bear with us. Classrooms were unaffected.

What happened on the Training Days?

We had a training day either side of the Christmas break: the first allowed for minibus drivers to be retrained and assessed and for subject leaders to work on new assessment arrangements. The TD in January was refresher training for Child Protection, including a focus upon the identification and prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). We also spent some time looking at assessment of, and provision for, children with Special Educational Needs.

Christmas Collection

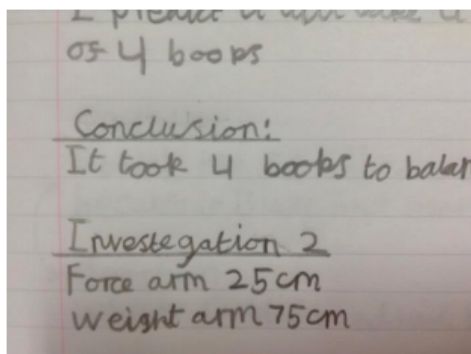
Many thanks for donations for tea and coffee at the KS1 and KS2 Christmas productions: over £50 was raised for the Sick Children's Trust that was supporting one of our families over the Christmas period. The great news is that the baby is now at home and doing well! The parents wanted me to pass on their thanks.



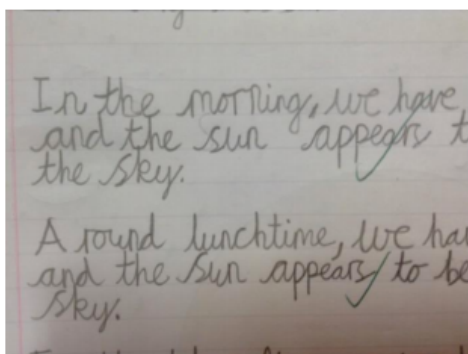


Cursive Handwriting bringing benefits

Across the school, classes have been taking a more cursive approach to their handwriting. This will be a long term project, but we are already seeing some positive results.



Year 5 girl September



Same Year 5 girl November

The main change is that letters 'flick on' from the line and 'flick off'.

How is your child getting on with this?

Ernst & Young grant to Farfield

We are extremely grateful to Y1 parent Imran Khan for arranging a very generous grant of over £2000 from his employer Ernst & Young to replace some ageing IT systems in our Reception classrooms and both main halls. The grant also enabled us to replace a broken iPad. This was a fantastic and timely boost to our IT provision - many thanks!



Year 1 learning all about Christmas

Year 1 were very busy out and about before Christmas. First, they visited the church in Farsley to learn about advent and Christingle. They also went to Thwaite Mills to learn about Christmas in Victorian times.





Making Music at Farfield during December

Singing played a central role in all our Christmas performances. Eight of our children also performed in the prestigious Schools Christmas Concert at Leeds Town Hall, whilst the choir sang carols at sheltered housing, the Farmers' Market and Bramley Baths.



Music at school is much more than singing. Recorder players and Charlie Heap (piano) performed at a Christmas assembly on the last day of term. Guitar-players also performed in Year 6. Children in Years 3 and 4 have been learning African Drumming with Ms Howells (and Graeme) and some of Year 4's early performances can be seen on the Year 4 blog. Year 4 have also been busy making their own musical instruments as part of their 'Sound' topic. Year 5 have been using xylophones as part of their work on graphic scores.



Well done to all involved. A love of music enriches lives and learning an instrument at an early age can provide a life-time of enjoyment. This term, Year 4 will be learning to use 'Boom-Whackers' whilst Year 3 continue with African Drumming.

PTA dates

The Christmas Fair raised over £800 and the Quiz Night raised over £600. Many thanks to all those parents and staff that supported these events.

Dates for the diary:

Beetle Drive (after school)	Friday 5th February
Race Night	Friday 4th March
Camp-Over	Saturday 18th June (doesn't clash with England in the Euros)

The next meeting of the PTA is Wednesday 13th January in the Juniors. We have considerable sums to spend: would you like to suggest a priority? A new minibus? More development of the grounds?

The PTA doesn't fund our basic expenditure; it helps provide funds for the things that make Farfield special...